

REMARKS

I. Claim Rejections under 35 USC 112

Claims 97, 100, 104, 106 and 109 were rejected for what amounted to a typographical error, the word "resolution element was used where "relief object" should have been used. Claims 104, 106 and 109 have been corrected and now use the correct term. This correction has been done to rectify a typographical error and is not substantive in nature. Claims 97 and 100 were cancelled for other reasons as indicated above and below.

II. Claim Rejections under 35 USC 103 (a)

a.) Rejection of claims 64-66 and 71-81 under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Gaffney (WO 97/16834) in view of the discussion of the prior art in the instant specification:

As noted in the response to the previous office action, Gaffney does not teach or suggest the formation of a detailed image of an object similar in size and structure to a finger suitable for identification purposes. On the other hand Applicants' invention is capable of forming a detailed image of a fine object, such as a fingerprint, which image is suitable for identification purposes.

b.) Rejection of claims 67-70 under 35 USC 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Gaffney (WO 97/16834) in view of the discussion of prior art in the instant specification s applied to claim 64 above, and further in view of Iwata et al JP 402126381A (the English Abstract and Drawing figures of JP 402126381A):

The argument set forth above at REMARKS II. a.) above are repeated herein as if

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set forth herein at length.

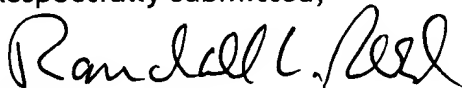
Conclusion

Applicants appreciate Examiner's consideration of the matter and suggestions on what would be allowable with respect to the claims. Claims 64 to 96, 98, 99, and 101 to 111, claims 97 and 100 having been cancelled, are now pending in this application. Based on the above amendments and arguments Applicants believe that the claims as now pending are allowable over the prior art of record. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of claims 64 to 96, 98, 99, and 101 to 111 and that these claims be allowed.

If there are any questions regarding this matter, or if it is felt that a telephone conversation can resolve any issues the undersigned would appreciate a call at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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